

# AES Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

December 1998

## Introducing the second issue of AES Newsletter

*Sharing information that's important to you.*

This newsletter will be faxed to you by the Bureau of Census, Foreign Trade Division, Export Automation Representatives Support team quarterly and whenever news, technical information, and updates need to be delivered.

*This newsletter will deliver news, technical information, and updates every quarter.*

This is our second issue and will cover the updates to the results of the IBN, the Sea Carrier Initiative, new letter of intent guidelines, the exporter of record issue, correct notation of SED exemptions, and provide important phone numbers and web access points.



**EXPORT AUTOMATION REPRESENTATIVE SUPPORT TEAM**

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Introduction to the Newsletter
- 1 Implementation schedule for the results of the IBN
- 2 The Sea Carrier Initiative
- 2 The Exporter of record issue
- 3 The AERP Page
- 4 Important Phone Numbers, AES Statistics, Reminders

## Implementation of the results of the Interest-based Negotiations

*A tentative timeline is in place for option three and option four*

### **Option 3: Partial Pre-Departure Information**

**Option 3 will be open to all modes of transportation.**

Option 3 user requirements will be distributed by mail to all companies that are certified and operational in AES. The user requirements will be available on the AES website for all other companies. These user requirements will be available in early March, 1999. Option 3 is intended to be implemented in AES in June 1999.

### **Option 4: No Pre-Departure Information**

Option 4 user requirements will be distributed on December 14, 1998 by mail to all companies that are certified and operational in AES. The user requirements will be available on the AES website for all other companies. Option 4 will be implemented in AES in March 1999. Companies using AES-PASS will have one year from the date of implementation to transition to Option 4.

## Federal Register notice on the status of AES and AERP:

On October 5, 1998 a notice was placed in the Federal Register addressing the status of AES and the conclusion of the AERP program. To read this notice in its original format please point your web browser to:

[www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fedreg/a981009c.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a981009c.html)

*The Export Automation Representative Support Team would like to wish all of our clients a happy holiday season and best wishes for the new year.*

## U.S. Customs/Census Bureau announce the roll-out of the awaited Sea Carrier Initiative Agreement

The U.S. Customs Service and the Bureau of Census have unveiled a new incentive program to help and encourage sea carriers to comply with export documentation requirements. The program, called the "Outbound Sea Carrier Initiative Agreement," is an agreement among vessel carriers, the U.S. Customs Service, and the Bureau of the Census to encourage carriers to file complete and timely transportation data via the Automated Export System (AES). The agreement offers incentives such as help in training personnel, a forum for recommending best practices to carriers and consideration in imposing penalties for incomplete or late documentation.

To enter into the program a carrier must be a certified and active participant (providing transportation data) in AES. The carrier must also achieve, and maintain, an 85% compliance rate for outbound manifest reporting requirements. Among other requirements, carriers must implement internal programs to ensure that documentation and procedures are complete and timely, and must educate employees and customers about export regulations and consequences of violations.

In turn, Customs and Census will recommend best practices to carriers; assist in identifying high-risk and/or non-compliant port offices, routes and facilities; help with training when necessary; provide carriers with a single point-of-contact for all matters relating to the agreement; and allow participants to file paper Shipper's Export Declarations (SEDs) to a local customs office in the carrier's centralized document center city.

Vessel carriers interested in the Automated Export System and the Sea Carrier Initiative Agreement will find information on the web sites at: [www.customs.treas.gov/AES](http://www.customs.treas.gov/AES) or by calling Mr. Dean Groseclose on 202-927-0218.

## The Exporter of Record Issue

*A clarification of the definition in the regulations*

On August 6, 1998 the Bureau of Census published a notice of proposed rulemaking and request for comments regarding a clarification of the definition of the exporter of record for SED reporting purposes. Essentially, this notice proposed that the manufacturer or U.S. seller, including those making Ex Works sales, of goods intended for export is in fact the exporter of record for SED purposes. The exporter of record may authorize a forwarding agent to prepare the SED information, and move the goods, or may allow the foreign buyer to authorize a forwarding agent.

The comment period for this Federal Register notice closed October 6, 1998. Sixty-seven companies submitted comments in response to this proposed rulemaking. Fifty-seven companies raised issues with the change, and ten were in favor of the change. In light of the issues raised, the Bureau of Census will revise this proposed rulemaking, and re-issue the notice in January 1999.

To view the original notice, point your web browser to:

[WWW.ACCESS.GPO.GOV/SU\\_DOCS/FEDREG/A980806C.HTML](http://WWW.ACCESS.GPO.GOV/SU_DOCS/FEDREG/A980806C.HTML)

## New Record Formats Available

The new record formats for commodity filing and transportation filing are available on the Customs Web Site:

[WWW.CUSTOMS.USTREAS.GOV/AES](http://WWW.CUSTOMS.USTREAS.GOV/AES)

If you have difficulty downloading the documents, and need a hard copy, please call your Census Client Representative.

# The AERP Page

## **The AERP Program ends December 31, 1999**

Data for the month of November, 1999 must be submitted to the Census Bureau no later than December 10, 1999.

Data for the month of December, 1999 must be submitted on or before December 31, 1999.

## **Transitioning to AES**

As you move your company from AERP to AES, please let your AERP representative know of your implementation plans – this will save them from making, and you from receiving, those calls each month regarding changes in volume of shipments.

### **Company Information:**

Please let the AERP staff know if there is a change in company contact, voice telephone, or FAX numbers we use as our daily contact for your company. It helps us help you when we are trying to resolve problems with your data if we have current names, and telephone numbers.

## **Compliance with timely reporting is still your mandate**

While the AERP staff is in the stages of preparing for an orderly closure to the Census program for export reporting, we still need your cooperation in receiving the data in the time guidelines established upon your authorization. Overall, we receive about 80% of good processable data by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, and another 10-15% good processable data by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month [The distinction of “good processable” data is because there may be errors (or rejects) with in the reports, but it can be sent through our edits for corrections later.] The approximate 5-10% balance requires the AERP staff to follow-up with calls to determine if there are problems, or no data is to be reported for the month. Coupled with late filing of the electronic data, there are also problems inherent with electronic data transmission which also require phone calls. Each month, there are some transmissions which are incomplete, and data diskettes/cartridges contain incomplete data, or wrong formats.

When we receive your data in a timely manner we have time to resolve problems and get all of a statistical months transactions processed in the correct month.

We thank those of our AERP participants who are in the 90-95% of ‘on-time’ filers, and encourage you to continue your great reporting procedure. Our staff will be talking to those who are having problems with getting the data to us in a timely manner.

## If your Exemption Statement is wrong, your cargo could be held by Customs

If you are concerned about, or have had problems with Customs in the past regarding your exemption statement, the Census Client representatives can verify the accuracy of your exemption notation – simply fax a sample document to your Census Client Representative with a note requesting a review.

There are two ways to note an AES SED exemption on an air waybill, ocean manifest or other commercial document. You may use the ITN (internal transaction number) that you receive as confirmation and acceptance of your transaction. Or you may use the XTN (external transaction number), which is a combination of the filer's EIN and the shipment reference number you've assigned. Please review your procedures and make sure you are correctly noting the SED exemptions.

## Field status changes in AES:

The Vessel Flag field has become optional, and booking number has become mandatory for vessel shipments.

### AES Statistics: As of December 1, 1998

Filers (Freight forwarders, exporters, and service centers) 113

Participating exporters: over 10,000

Letters of Intent to participate: more than 500

Total number of export lines reported in the month of November: 67,194

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES

### CENSUS CLIENT REPRESENTATIVES:

WENDY PEEBLES	(301) 457-3540	WENDY.D.PEEBLES@CCMAIL.CENSUS.GOV
GERRY HORNER	(301) 457-3539	GERARD.J.HORNER@CCMAIL.CENSUS.GOV
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ANITA BROWN	(301) 457-2207	ANITA.W.BROWN@CCMAIL.CENSUS.GOV
MIKE SCHREFFLER	(301) 457-3542	MICHAEL.K.SCHREFFLER@CCMAIL.CENSUS.GOV
KRISTAL BYRD	(301) 457-3541	KRISTAL.A.BYRD@CCMAIL.CENSUS.GOV
DOROTHY BROWN	(301) 457-2209	DOROTHY.L.BROWN@CCMAIL.CENSUS.GOV
LESLIE ALBERTSON	(301) 457-3541	LESLIE.S.ALBERTSON@CCMAIL.CENSUS.GOV
LILY WONG	(301) 457-8012	LILY.C.WONG@CCMAIL.CENSUS.GOV
MARK VIATOR	(301) 457-3829	MARK.A.VIATOR@CCMAIL.CENSUS.GOV

REGULATIONS BRANCH (SED QUESTIONS): (301) 457-2238

COMMODITY ANALYSIS BRANCH (COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION QUESTIONS):

DURABLE GOODS: (301) 457-3259

NON-DURABLE GOODS: (301) 457-3484

BUREAU OF EXPORT ADMINISTRATION (LICENSING QUESTIONS) (202) 482-4811

U.S. CUSTOMS:

PAT MORRIS (703) 921-7470 PAT.MORRIS@CUSTOMS.TREAS.GOV

## IMPORTANT WEB SITES:

CENSUS BUREAU, FOREIGN TRADE DIVISION	<a href="http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www">HTTP://WWW.CENSUS.GOV/FOREIGN-TRADE/WWW</a>
U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE	<a href="http://www.customs.ustreas.gov/aes">HTTP://WWW.CUSTOMS.USTREAS.GOV/AES</a>
BUREAU OF EXPORT ADMINISTRATION:	<a href="http://www.bxa.doc.gov">HTTP://WWW.BXA.DOC.GOV</a>